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SUBSTANCE P
& NEUROKININS
MONTRÉAL '86



(JULY 21-23 JUILLET)

4th July, 1985

The Director
Research Grants
Council for Tobacco Research, U.S.A. Inc.
900 Third Ave.
New York, NY 10022
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

I understand that the Council for Tobacco Research supports research pertaining to the connection between tobacco use and human health.

I am a basic scientist involved in research on the neurophysiological effects of naturally-occurring peptides. These peptides are emerging as important regulators of physiological function and research to date indicates wide ramifications in terms of their involvement in health and disease, including their role in adaptive responses of the respiratory mucosa to cigarette smoke.

In particular, one peptide called substance P, has been linked to the edema which occurs in the respiratory mucosa in response to irritants such as cigarette smoke, mechanical stimulation by solid particles and certain chemicals. For example, Lundberg and colleagues studied the effects of cigarette smoke on vascular permeability in the rat nasal mucosa. Using the Evans blue extravasation method, cigarette smoke was found to produce a significant extravasation of the dye in the nasal mucosa, suggesting an increase in vascular permeability to plasma proteins. This edema response was correlated to tar, nicotine and vapor phase components in the smoke. The smoke-induced edema could be prevented by two measures. One was the depletion of substance P by neonatal treatment with a chemical called capsaicin, which has been shown in a number of studies to deplete peripheral substance P even in later adult stages of life. The second measure which could prevent the smoke-induced edema was local pretreatment with a substance P antagonist, which occupies the receptors of substance P and thus prevents the action of the peptide. This work was published in the Archives of Pharmacology, Vol. 325, pp. 181-185, 1984.

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This is only one of a number of bodily functions in which substance P has been implicated, but in peripheral tissues it seems to be generally involved in inflammatory responses. Increasingly widespread interest and research on substance P and its family of related peptides, called neurokinins, have led to a series of international symposia which have been held in London, Stockholm, Osaka and Dublin in the past. The next such symposium, entitled "Substance P and Neurokinins - Montréal '86", is being organized as a Satellite Symposium of the XXX International Congress of Physiology. This Satellite Symposium will be held at McGill University in July, 1986, and I am the Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee.

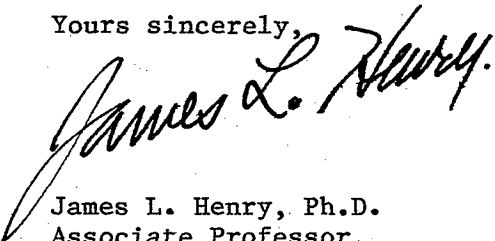
As such, I am writing to enquire about the possibility of obtaining financial support from the Council of Tobacco Research for the symposium.

This symposium is a major international scientific event in the field of peptide research. This is the first time such a symposium is being held in North America. It will be attracting participating scientists from around the world. Its format will include frontier lectures, oral and poster sessions on recent developments in the field and a general scientific and policy discussion session. The proceedings will be published as a hard-cover book.

The tobacco industry in North America and the Council for Tobacco Research in particular are world leaders in the search for better and safer tobacco products. The symposium merits your support and encouragement as an outstanding forum for the presentation and discussion of health-related issues pertaining amongst other substances to the use of tobacco.

I would appreciate your letting me know how I might officially apply for financial support for this symposium. All contributions will be acknowledged at the symposium and the list of contributors will be published in the hard-cover proceedings.

Yours sincerely,



James L. Henry, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Chairman,
Local Organizing Committee

JLH/amc